

## PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE AHEAD OF TIME IN THE JOURNAL.

Gage's Financial Reforms and Gary's Postal Savings Bank Without an Indorsement--Many Statements and Reports, Few Recommendations--More Delay for Cuba--Longest Message on Record and Weakest Since Pierce.

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**P**OLITICIANS at Washington are busy with the discussion of President McKinley's forthcoming annual message to Congress. A fairly accurate forecast of its contents has become known in certain circles of the Administration, and while the President is still at work upon some features of the document, its general tenor and purport is a matter of considerable certainty. Among the Republican leaders and the personal friends of the Chief Executive it is openly said that it will be a message containing a vast amount of routine information, but one that will not lay down a definite policy nor indorse any of the leading and radical suggestions as to the future course of the Administration which have been urged by Cabinet advisers in their reports already made public. Critics of the message insist that it will be the weakest state paper sent to Congress in many years and the longest upon record.

Washington, Nov. 28.—President McKinley's first annual message to Congress will be a disappointment to the party leaders, who look for positive declarations, a definite policy and aggressive purpose. In the opinion of the few Republicans who know the plans of the President, it will be the weakest state paper since the days of Pierce. Congress is to receive probably the longest message ever laid before it.

It will be extremely verbose, a document of many statements and few recommendations. In every important particular it looks as though the President sought to avoid responsibility. In the words of a prominent Republican Senator: "The message is wobbly."

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Between the harassment of his advisers and a fear of frosting the plant of prosperity, the President has failed to utter a single strong sentence.

The accusation will be made that the President has been sunk by the politician, and that with a renomination in view he has striven to placate opposing factions by attacking the opinions of none. All the ills which afflict the body politic are mentioned, but Congress is left to furnish the prescription. With half a dozen problems of vital importance to the country before him he has offered a solution to none.

Further time is asked for the settlement of the Cuban question. During the extra session of Congress, when the effort was being made to bring before the House the joint resolution passed by the Senate, granting belligerent rights to the Cuban patriots, the President's personal friends pleaded for time and promised on the authority that the President would settle the trouble, with freedom for Cuba, if he were granted only a few months. Now he will ask for another extension of time.

With the most complicated and insufficient financial system in the world, and with all his campaign pledges before him, the President makes but one narrow recommendation, and forwards without comment the extended financial reform plans of his Secretary of the Treasury.

Faced by a growing deficit in the treasury, the President refuses to confess that the Dingley bill is a failure and asks for further revenue legislation. Fearful of the opposition of banking institutions and doubtful of the experiment, he will not indorse the recommendation of his Postmaster-General for postal savings banks. Neither will he say that he is not in accord with him. He simply forwards the report of General Gary. He will state that the postal laws should be reformed, but will not tell Congress how it can be done. Again, he will fall back on the Postmaster-General.

### International Bimetallism.

He will reiterate his faith in international bimetallism, will glowingly describe how easily it will be accomplished in the future, will tell Congress of the great promise of his commission, but will fail to point out a plan by which international bimetallism can be brought about, nor will he mention the fact that the commission was stabbed in the back at his own direction.

The question of currency reform is the one which has brought the President the greatest perplexity. During the extra session he was most anxious to have Congress take up the currency question through the appointment of a Currency Commission, but Speaker Reed would not permit it. Then the responsibility could have been thrown on the legislative branch; now rests with the President, and he shrinks from assuming it. His evasion will be successful, for he makes but one recommendation on finance—one of the few in the entire message.

He will recommend the repeal of the clause of the law of May 31, 1878, which provides that on the redemption of United States legal tender notes, "they shall be paid out again and kept in circulation." The remainder of the act provides that the notes when received shall not be retired, cancelled or destroyed. He does not ask for the repeal of the entire law, but wants it amended so that after a greenback has been redeemed in gold it cannot be placed in circulation again except in exchange for gold. A ten-line bill passed by Congress would accomplish his purpose.

The President is known to be in favor of the suggestion of Secretary Gage to permit the establishment of independent and branch national banks in the smaller towns of the country, but he does not say so. One of his warmest supporters declares that the President is strong in stating a case, and on the currency question, as well as on all others, confines himself to statements. He suggests that his Secretary of the Treasury has some ideas on this subject, but the President carefully avoids assuming responsibility for them. If in the future they should happen to prove a benefit to the country the lion's share of the credit would be given to the Administration, but in case of rejection or failure the blame could all be thrown on Secretary Gage.

### Congress the Cubans' Hope.

The friends of Cuba will find little comfort in the treatment of that subject. The message unmasks the President's position relative to the settlement of the war. He asks Congress to keep quiet a little while longer. It is urged that the new Spanish Ministry should have a fair show in its efforts to pacify Cuba. He will point with pride to the fact that all the American prisoners confined in Spanish prisons have been released, and that the whole brutal policy of Weyler has been revised. He will offer this as a reason for giving the Spanish Government more time.

Congress will not be informed, however, that the release of these prisoners was accepted by this Administration as an act of generosity on the part of the Spanish Ministry, and not as an act of justice and right. His friends have urged him not to ask further delay on the part of Congress at this time, since it shows too plainly the policy of the Administration. But the President is stubborn on this point, and intends to keep his part of the agreement.

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### Asks for Hawaiian Annexation.

Of the other foreign questions touched on the recommendation concerning Hawaii is the most important. The President asks that the treaty sent to the Senate in the Summer be ratified. He briefly advances the same reasons as presented in his special message on that subject.

The President will deal cautiously with the Pelagic sealing question and the relations of this country with Canada. He will state that the Administration laid down as an ultimatum that the pelagic killing of seals must stop before any trade relations could be discussed with Canada.

In the same way the President avoids giving expression to any partisan view over the merchant marine.

On the safe ground of immigration the message will urge the passage of legislation in accordance with the Republican platform: "For the protection of the equality of our American citizenship and the wages of our workmen against the competition of low-priced labor." This the President would accomplish by the exclusion of all immigrants who can neither read nor write.

The message commends Secretary Long for his economy in asking for only one battleship, when three were looked for. Secretary attaches at United States embassies and legations in Europe meets a similar fate. The usual routine statements concerning Departmental Alger's recommendation to increase the artillery branch of the army is passed over in silence. Secretary Wilson's plan of having agricultural work are made and the President appends his signature.



President McKinley Preparing His Message.

## MARTINELLI, LIKE DUCEY, URGES SOCIAL REFORM.

Approves the Pastor's Review of His Sermons.

SETS A BOUND.

St. Leo's Rector Will Be Safe if He Follows Leo XIII.



**T**HE Rev. Thomas J. Ducey, rector of St. Leo's Church, in East Twenty-eighth street, concluded yesterday a course of sermons on the great economic problems of the day. These sermons have attracted so much attention that at the request of the Journal Father Ducey prepared a long statement (which was published exclusively in yesterday's great Sunday Journal), giving in detail his reasons for preaching these sermons, and the eminent authorities in the Catholic Church who sustained his views on these questions.

The Journal asked Archbishop Martinelli, Papal Delegate to this country, to review Father Ducey's statement published yesterday, and say, as the representative of the Pope, whether the rector of St. Leo's was preaching orthodox Catholic doctrine, and whether his views on the economic conditions of the day were in accord with the teaching authority of the Church.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Mgr. Sebastian Martinelli, the Papal Delegate to the United States, was shown to-day the statement of the Rev. Thomas J. Ducey, of New York, as to his views on the social problem. The Delegate was much interested and criticized this expression freely. He said:

"Taking Father Ducey's statement in its entirety, it is a defence of previous utterances.

"Now as to the matter of these previous expressions, I cannot say anything, because I have not got them before me, and therefore I am unable to know whether they fall within the lines of his assertion to-day in the Journal. But there is nothing in this letter that is contrary to Catholic teaching. In a measure it correctly states the attitude of the church with regard to the social problem.

"I repeat that if this statement correctly reflects Father Ducey's previous utterances his attitude toward the great question of the day is the attitude of the church as interpreted by the Pope. Father Ducey cannot go wrong so long as he takes for his model Pope Leo XIII.

"I may say that the church recognizes the right of property, and no Catholic priest nor statesman can teach any doctrine that deprives a man of the right of property in a thing that he has created or earned by his industry. Every man is entitled to the right to make a living. The more talented will produce and acquire more than his less fortunate fellow; but he cannot carry that right of acquisition to the extent of depriving his poor neighbor of the right to make a living. He cannot compel him to be dishonest. Charity and justice must dictate the laws that will regulate this condition. I believe that